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sense ; and when it happens to fall to the lot of a corrupt people, it soon passes into anarchy, and thence into despotism. False alike is the patriotism that rejects the obligations of religion, and the statesmanship which confides the prosperity and liberty of a nation to the guardianship of the sword. Individual and public happiness are both identified with obedience to the divine commands — commands which, being dictated by infinite wisdom and goodness, must of necessity be conducive to the highest expediency.

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## R E P O R T .

THE Cause of Peace is now passing through its severest trial. The war in the East between nations possessed, in all, of more population, wealth and power than ancient Rome could boast even in the zenith of her greatness has already diffused its evils more or less over the whole earth. We need not pause here to dwell on these evils; but we can hardly refrain from a passing allusion to its malign influence on our cause in both hemispheres. It has waked the war-demon from the partial repose of nearly forty years and sent him forth to breathe his spirit anew into the mass of the people through Christendom, and thus to produce almost everywhere a state of mind exceedingly unfavorable to the present success of our efforts. It increases our difficulties, while it diminishes our power to overcome them. It strengthens the skepticism, always too prevalent, in regard to the possibility of averting the terrible scourge of war. It thins our ranks, far more than it weakens our real strength, by the defection or temporary paralysis of those fair-weather friends who were drawn into co-operation with us more by a blind, unreasoning sympathy than by any intelligent convictions of duty; amiable but superficial men who had never counted the full cost of our struggle with this giant evil of the world, but strangely imagined that the Leviathan of war might be tamed by the chloroform of a merely sentimental philanthropy.

The evils to our cause from the war now in progress, are too manifold for minute specification. It diverts public attention from our arguments for peace, and engrosses it with pleas and motives for war. It shuts or hardens the general mind against our appeals. The chief influences of the day it turns into the channels of war, and sets them adrift on its maddened waves. It subsidizes almost everything to its own purposes, — palace and cottage, state and church, platform and pulpit, press and parliament. We see its malign influence everywhere. The whole atmosphere of society is

more or less tainted with its moral miasma. It revives in a degree the old warlike modes of thought and feeling. It well-nigh paganizes, on the question of peace and war, the mass of minds all over Christendom. It diffuses everywhere a kind of moral epidemic, likely for the time to neutralize very much the influence of all possible arguments for peace. It is to our cause very like what would be to the cause of temperance among us a drunken revel of our entire population from Maine to Missouri, from Iowa to Florida. In such a case, the friends of temperance would, of course, be obliged to wait the return of partial sobriety before renewing their efforts with any hope of decisive success; and equally vain must it be for the friends of peace to expect much progress through Christendom at large from any amount of labors, until the return of peace shall leave the minds of men open to our appeals.

In spite, however, of all these adverse influences, the Cause of Peace has during the last year made, in this and other countries, a degree of progress for which we ought to be devoutly thankful. In England, our friends have in various ways struggled manfully against the war-mania so rife all over the land, and through the press, more than the platform or the pulpit, have scattered seeds of peace that must, under the dews and sunshine of a more genial season, ripen at length into a rich and blessed harvest. From friends in England and our own country, there have through the year gone forth Olive-leaves of Peace, brief, popular articles in behalf of our cause, over large portions of the Continent, through the paid agency of some thirty widely circulated newspapers; a wise, economical and effective mode of diffusing our principles, even in the midst of wars and commotions. Thus has there been in the Old World, despite the war now in progress, nearly as much money and labor expended in the Cause of Peace during the last as in any preceding year. So of our own country too; for, in spite of all difficulties and discouragements, we have considerably exceeded our usual amount both of receipts and of labors in this cause.

THE SOCIETY'S FINANCES—have been much more prosperous than we had ventured to expect. The extreme pressure of the times has considerably diminished the income of kindred enterprises, and such pressures usually bear far more heavily on our cause than upon any other, because so generally served the last of all; but we are gratefully surprised to learn from the Treasurer's Report, that there has been, notwithstanding the many adverse influences of the year, a slight advance even on the preceding year, when our income was more than fifty per cent. larger than usual. Our receipts have amounted to \$5,345 56, and our expenditures to \$4,771 47, leaving in the treasury \$574,09; a larger balance than ever before, and somewhat more than sufficient to meet all the outstanding liabilities of the Society up to the present time. For such a result we may well be grateful; but we ought not to forget, that we received the last year nearly twice as much in legacies as we had in eight years preceding, and that our income still did not reach a tenth part of the amount requisite to meet fairly and fully the demands of our cause in this country.

LEGACIES TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE—we rejoice to find becoming more frequent and more liberal. We are happy to record a generous remembrance of our Society by the late EDWARD CRAFTS, of Auburn, Maine, who bequeathed to us one third of his personal property. We regard this as virtually a tribute to the memory of the Founder of our Society, WILLIAM LADD. Mr. Crafts spent his days in the neighborhood of Mr. Ladd's residence during the latter part of his life, and was doubtless induced by his respect for that venerated pioneer of our cause, the American Apostle of Peace, to remember our Society in his will. It has been in litigation between some of the legatees and the heirs at law, as it still is in the form of a friendly suit before the Supreme Court of Maine; but, as the validity of our claim was conceded on all sides, we have already received *twelve hundred dollars*, and may expect, in the final settlement, perhaps several hundred more.

It is with mingled emotions of pleasure and pain, of gratitude and grief, that we mention here another benefactor recently gone, we doubt not, to the peace-maker's reward in heaven. THOMAS A. MERRILL, D. D., long a Vice President of our Society, a venerable and excellent man, the Pastor for some fifty years of the Congregational Church in Middlebury, Vt., and confessedly at the head, facile princeps, of his own denomination in that State, a father in Israel, an Elijah among the prophets, died on the 29th of April, at the age of seventy-five, in the calm, full triumph of Christian faith. Dr. Merrill was no ordinary man. The class-mate of Daniel Webster, and resembling him very much in the form of his body, and the powers of his mind, he bore the palm of scholarship in college from that great orator, jurist and statesman. He might, if he would, have contested the prize in any field of competition even with that master-mind of his age; for competent judges, acquainted with them both, deemed the former as richly gifted by nature as the latter, and no one could well be with him for an hour without feeling himself in the presence of an imperial intellect.

Such a man is no small accession to any cause; and ours Dr. Merrill espoused in its infancy, and became more and more ardent in his love and zeal for it to the end of his days. Before the establishment of ours as the National Society, he helped to organize in Vermont a State Society, whose influences for the good of our cause may still be seen more or less throughout that State. Possessed of a small property, and anxious to make it serviceable after his death to our cause as well as to others, he conceived the design of leaving \$1,500 to the American Tract Society, to be used after the death of himself and his widow, first, in giving \$500 as a premium for a book on Peace, to form one of the volumes in that Society's *Evangelical Family Library*, and the remainder (1,000) in perpetuating the work through all future time. He meant the bequest for the benefit of our cause, but chose this method as the most effective for his purpose. A fast friend of the Tract Society as well as of our own, he sought in this way to enlist the vast and far-reaching instrumentalities of the former in diffusing the principles and accomplishing the objects of peace, as one of its legitimate, evangelical aims. With his characteristic wisdom and carefulness, he had arranged his plan to mutual satisfaction with the managers of that Society, when a friend suggested the expediency of attempting to carry it into effect in his own life-time. Pleased with the suggestion, he promptly offered to put \$2,200 in the hands of any one who would advance the proposed \$1,500, and secure the income of the former sum to himself and his wife during their lives. The arrangement he desired, was effected through our Society by one of its friends; and his offer of \$500 as a premium for the best work on Peace was soon after published by the American Tract Society. The manuscripts in competition for this generous prize have

now been several months in the hands of the adjudicators; and we are happy to learn, though the award is not yet made, that they are likely to furnish such a work on this high evangelical theme as our venerable friend so much desired, and as the Tract Society will be glad, and will find it an honor, and a means of increased usefulness, to publish and scatter far and wide over the land. In this hope, we rejoice that our lamented Vice-President gave his benefaction to that Society instead of our own; but, at the same time, we ought perhaps to state, as a matter of interest to our friends, that the sum of \$2,200, now held by us in trust for his widow, is to become, after her decease, the property of our Society.

We might, also, allude, if it were proper here, to some other cases where a purpose has been kindly intimated to make similar bequests. We may well rejoice at the growing disposition of good men to remember our Society in the appropriation they make of their property after their decease. Our cause has hitherto been far too much overlooked in this respect; but we trust it will not continue to be so. There is not, in the whole circle of Christian enterprises, of philanthropic institutions or objects, a single one that more deeply needs, or more richly deserves, generous bequests from those who have large amounts to give for such purposes. We can hardly conceive an act which a follower of the Prince of Peace would recall with more satisfaction in a dying hour, or on which the God of Peace would smile with more favor in the day of judgment, than such an appropriation to carry into effect, the world over, that song of the angels at our Saviour's birth — "Glory to God in the highest; and on earth, Peace, good-will to men!" How many friends of our cause might, if they so judged, bequeath to it from a hundred to a thousand dollars, others five or ten thousand, here and there one his twenty or fifty thousand, without wronging their own families, or any other objects of benevolence. The cause needs at this moment a fund of fifty or a hundred thousand dollars for a variety of permanent objects connected with its progress; and that man of wealth who shall bequeath to it such means of perpetual usefulness, will immortalize his name as a benefactor, not of his own country alone, but of the whole human race. The day is surely coming — may the God of Peace hasten it — when the fame of such men shall eclipse the warrior's glory, and their memory live in the world's admiration and love, long after the name of its military heroes shall have rotted with their bones.

OUR PUBLICATIONS ON PEACE—have been increasing in some departments. We are unable to give the precise number of copies issued during the year; but there has been a steady increase, especially in the issues of our periodical to the amount of some twenty per cent. over preceding years. We have, also, stereotyped several new tracts, and published new editions, several thousand copies each, of old ones. We have lately issued a catalogue of our publications, from which it will be seen, that we have more than seventy stereotyped tracts, eight volumes, and various pamphlets, amounting in all to nearly one hundred of different kinds, and constituting as good a set of instruments as our friends could well desire for their use in promoting our cause. Would to God they might be used, as they all ought to be, in pleading this heaven-appointed cause from one end of our land to the other.

OUR AGENCIES—have, also, been augmented. We have had four persons steadily in our service the last year, — an agent at our office, the Secretary devoting his whole time to his usual variety of labors for the Society, and two Lecturing Agents, Rev. HENRY SNYDER in Western New York, and Rev. A. C. HAND in Wisconsin and adjoining States. They have both spent their whole time in our service with untiring zeal, and with as much success as their respective fields of labor would permit us to expect. Our

cause, strange as it may seem, is new even in Western New York, as well as in States farther west, and its claims very imperfectly understood; but our servants there have held on their course with a persistent fidelity, and with a good degree of success for a new enterprise in a new country. Their labors are arduous; and they deserve our thanks for their services as pioneers of our cause in the Great West. They lecture every week, sometimes every day, visit from house to house, and distribute publications by sale or gift. Here is the only sure process of working the principles of peace thoroughly into the hearts and habits of the whole people; and we *ought* to have an average of one or two such laborers for every State in the Union.

A GREAT ENLARGEMENT OF OUR OPERATIONS—is imperatively demanded by the times. Not a tithe of the money or the labor it needs, has yet been furnished; and there ought to be forthwith a more than ten-fold increase of both contributions and efforts in its behalf. The case is clear as noon. Here is the mightiest and most difficult reform ever attempted, excepting only the world's evangelization; and is it possible to accomplish, or even to begin in real earnest, a work so vast by the employment of a few agents, and the expenditure of a few thousand dollars a year? The idea is utterly absurd; and the marvel is, that so much has already been achieved by an amount of means so exceedingly small. It is vain to hope for any decisive or marked success without means far more adequate to the case; and if one half of its exigencies in our own country alone were met, we should have at our command fifty or a hundred, instead of only three or five thousand dollars a year, and, in place of two or three agents, should keep more than fifty constantly in the field.

Nor is such an increase of our operations impossible; for what *ought* to be done, *can* be done, and *must* be in time. If impossible, where lies the impossibility? In any real lack of ability? Surely not; for the friends of peace among us have ample means, and could, with perfect ease, raise at once all the funds we need. Indeed, it would be a wise economy for them to do so, a species of moral insurance cheaper and more effectual than that which guards their property on land or sea; for already have they alone lost, by the war now in progress some six thousand miles off, vastly more than would suffice by its bare interest to furnish, year after year, every farthing we should ask for the support of our cause in vigor and triumph to the end of time. This war, though raging on a distant hemisphere, has in a single year cost ourselves, in one way and another, more millions than would be requisite, with God's blessing on a right use of the means he has appointed for the purpose, to avert the evils of war from our own country forever, and even put an end to the whole war-system in every Christian land. Take the average cost and waste of this system through Christendom for a single day since the commencement of the present war; and the mere interest, if wisely spent in the cause of peace, would soon render the

recurrence of actual war among its nations morally impossible, and would, in due time, uproot and exterminate the entire custom. All this *can* be done, if the friends of God and man will only say it *shall* be, and then, suiting the deed to the word, will just gird themselves in earnest to do it by using adequate means. True, it never can be done by the pittance of means now in use, any more than you can bore a railway tunnel four or five miles long through a mountain with a gimlet; and just as well might you say the mountain never can be tunnelled, because forsooth your little gimlet will not do it, as doubt the possibility of abolishing war, or preventing the actual return of its evils, simply because a consummation so vast can never be accomplished without a ten-fold or a hundred-fold increase of the means hitherto used.

Nor can we help thinking that now is in some respects a favorable time for special efforts in this country. True, the war in the East is diffusing all over the Old World a malign influence upon our cause; but, far removed ourselves from its seat, feeling but slightly, if at all, the passions and prejudices it so deeply stirs there, and looking calmly on its follies, its crimes and its woes, we are now in a condition to feel more than ever the claims of peace, and the necessity of augmented efforts for the prevention of future wars. It is in truth the seed-time of peace here; and now, if ever, ought its principles, arguments and facts to be scattered broadcast over the whole country. Public attention is constantly drawn to the subject as the great theme of the day, the general ear is open to our appeals, and, if urged as they might and should be, they would be likely to make upon the mass of our people a deeper, more effective impression than ever. Now is the time to throw our anchor to the windward against the evils that threaten ourselves; for the war-spirit lurking still in the popular heart here, especially the wild, reckless propagandism that hankers and plots, now for Cuba, anon for all the islands of the West Indies, and then for the finest portions of South America, may ere long require for our safety all, and more than all, the pacific influences we can possibly diffuse by our utmost efforts through the length and breadth of our land.

In such a cause it ill becomes the followers of the Prince of Peace to despond, or grow weary. Resting on the arm of Omnipotence, pillowed on the bosom of Infinite Love, it is safe there amid all dangers, and sure in God's time to emerge from darkness and tempest into the sunlight of a glorious triumph. There is a bow of promise spanning the broadest and blackest cloud of war. Signs of progress, and pledges of ultimate triumph, we may discover amid the worst omens of the day. That man lacks due knowledge or reflection, who sees no change for the better in public sentiment on this subject; for seldom has the world witnessed more progress in

the same length of time on any kindred topic. We may be unconscious of the change in ourselves, and insensible to that which has taken place in society around us; but, if we carefully compare periods far enough apart to show the change, we shall see the difference clearly enough.

Take for an illustration our Militia system. When the cause of peace first started in our country, this system was in its vigor and glory, a special favorite of the people; but there has since come a marked change of popular sentiment respecting it in every part of the land. Its titles and honors, once so generally coveted as objects of ambition, are now held in so low esteem, that few persons of much respectability will accept them. Militia drills, which used to be so frequent, and attended by so large a portion of the people as spectators, are entirely abolished in some States; and in the country at large there is probably less than a tenth part of the training, in proportion to our population, that there was forty years ago. Whence this change, amounting almost to an entire revolution? From a general change of public opinion, of the popular mind; and the chief complaint of military men now is, that the hostility or indifference of the people has well nigh killed the militia system; nor has it anywhere much respectability or vigor, except where the State, as in Massachusetts, has fostered it by large appropriations. Left to itself, it would die out from every part of the land. It is confessedly smitten with a paralysis or consumption from which it never can recover. The people themselves have sealed its doom. The laws of Congress, and perhaps of some States, may still remain as they were; but they are nearly a dead letter, and no power on earth can ever breathe into them their former life and vigor. A change so great, if crowded into six months instead of being spread through thirty or forty years, would have startled the nation, and put to flight forever all doubt respecting its reality or its magnitude. An equal stride in advance of what public opinion now is, would almost suspend our armories, and shut up our military academies, dismantle our fleet, disband our army, and leave to disuse and eventual decay most of those fortifications on which our government has already squandered scores on scores of millions.

Observe, also, how surely, though gradually, *Substitutes for War* are coming into favor and actual use. Already has our own government adopted it in four cases as a *stipulated* substitute for the sword—in two treaties with Mexico, and in two with Great Britain. The last one is that of our late important treaty with England, distinctly embodying the principle, though not to the full extent that we desired. We wished these two leading governments of Christendom to adopt, in explicit, unequivocal terms, the principle of providing for the peaceful adjustment of all future difficulties, which they could not settle between themselves, by reference in the



last resort to umpires. Their last treaty does thus pledge the parties to settle in this way all disputes arising under its provisions, but does not, as we earnestly hoped it would, extend this pledge to whatever misunderstanding may ever arise between them from any source, or upon any question or issue. Such a pledge will inaugurate a new and most auspicious era in the diplomacy of Christendom; and even the one actually introduced into all these four treaties, may suffice, since it fairly recognizes the principle, to pioneer the way in due time for the practice of stipulated arbitration as the permanent, universal policy of the civilized world.

Indeed, we find in this very war some proofs of progress. We cannot here enumerate them all; but to say nothing of its having been delayed a whole year longer than it would have been half a century ago, nothing of the extreme reluctance with which the parties entered upon it, nor aught of the better views and feelings, though bad enough still, which its dread realities have called forth from every quarter; look at the single fact, so significant and hopeful, that England and France, the leading naval powers of the world, and consequently interested most deeply in the usage, proclaimed, before the conflict began, their joint purpose to issue no letters of marque and reprisals, without which there could be no privateering. This puts a stop of course to the practice during the present war, and may well be regarded as the starting point of its entire abolition in due time. Such a step is clearly the result of a much altered public sentiment; and, had the friends of peace accomplished in forty years nothing more than this single reform during only the present war, this alone, saving thousands of lives, and myriads of property, will have compensated them, a thousand times over, for all their labors and sacrifices in this cause.

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#### RESOLUTIONS.

The Society passed unanimously the following resolves:—

1. That, having learned the recent decease of our venerable Vice President, THOMAS A. MERRILL, D. D., we accompany our record of this mournful event with an expression of our great respect for his character, and our grateful remembrance of his services and contributions to our cause.

The next resolution, said the Secretary, in reading the resolutions at the public meeting, couples two names from two hemispheres for the purpose of doing them an honor they richly deserve; one a member of the British Parliament, and the other a missionary of the Cross on the opposite side of the globe—JOHN BRIGHT and TITUS COAN. Bright, like his somewhat older compeer, Richard Cobden, *par nobile fratrum*, is a man of and for the people; what we should call a self-made man